

PATENT

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FOR

ZWITTERIONIC IODONIUM COMPOUNDS AND METHODS OF

APPLICATION

BY

DARRYL D. DESMARTEAU

VITORIO MONTANARI

AND

BRIAN H. THOMAS

Title of the Invention

Zwitterionic Iodonium Compounds and Methods of Application

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Reference to Previous Application

This application claims priority from previously filed Provisional Application No. 60/196,515 filed on April 11, 2000.

Field of the Invention

This invention is directed to compounds and processes that
10 are useful in etching of microelectronic components. In particular, the invention relates to the generation of photoacids used in the photoresist step of microelectronic manufacture.

Background of the Invention

In the manufacture of electronic semiconductor devices, it is
15 common to use silicon wafers as a base material. Such wafers may be etched to produce an integrated circuit. A modern integrated circuit is a three dimensional structure of alternating patterned layers of conductors, dielectrics, and semiconductor films. These circuits are usually fabricated upon an ultra-high purity wafer substrate of a
20 semiconducting material such as silicon.

In many applications, silicon wafers are manufactured in a two step process. The first step is the coating of the silicon wafer with a thin film of a radiation sensitive polymer. This polymer is sometimes known as a "resist". A second step is the transfer of a predetermined
25 pattern to the silicon wafer substrate using an etching technique.

Conventional etching techniques sometimes have relied upon diazonaphthoquinone and novolac resins to perform the etching. Such resins have been successful in generating circuits having features or circuit path widths greater than about 0.8 μm . United
30 States Patent No. 5,945,250 to Aoai et al. describes positive photosensitive compositions containing a sulfonium or iodonium salt resin having a specific repeating structural unit with good stability in solvents and high photosensitivity for etching a resist pattern. The

Aoi patent disclosure references novolac resins and naphthoquinonediazide compounds that function as dissolution inhibiting agents. According to the Aoi patent disclosure, such photoresists produce satisfactory results in forming resist patterns
5 having line widths ranging from about 0.8 to about 2 μm .

In general, resins operate upon the silicon wafer by undergoing a photochemical transformation that renders them soluble in aqueous base. Thus, the irradiated area on the surface of the wafer may be removed by exposing a pattern on the silicon underneath. Such
10 etching systems sometimes have employed electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength of about 350-450 nm. Lithography which uses this wavelength of electromagnetic radiation in the etching process is sometimes called "conventional lithography". This process uses photoacids, which are molecules that produce an acid when they are
15 irradiated. Photoacids are used in the photoresist step of microchip manufacturing.

Recently, there has been a drive in the industry towards smaller components. In general, the smaller the overall electronic device, the greater the performance. In order to increase
20 performance, it is necessary to place a more complex circuit on a wafer in a smaller space. To do so, it is necessary to manufacture a more exact and highly refined resolution of the photo-etch upon the surface of the wafer. To increase the resolution of the etch upon the wafer, it is necessary to employ a chemical etch system that is
25 capable of operating at lower wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation.

In general, the shorter the wavelength used to produce the image, the higher the resolution that may be achieved on the surface. Therefore, to obtain a lithography etch with a circuit path width of less
30 than about 0.5 μm , improved lithographic methods and compositions need to be developed that are capable of employing shorter wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation in the etching process.

Photoresist systems in the prior art are divided generally into two groups: two-component and three-component systems. The two-component systems contain a resin, which decomposes upon irradiation with light to give an alkaline soluble component, and a photoacid generator. The three component systems involve a photoacid generator, an alkali-soluble resin with acid-decomposable groups, and a dissolution inhibitive compound for the alkali-soluble resin. After irradiation, the acid-catalyzed removal of acid decomposable groups is carried out by heating; it is known that for each molecule of acid generated, many acid decomposable groups are removed during the heating stage. A discussion of this system is set forth in United States Patent No. 5,945,250 to Aoi.

Recent work on photoacid generators has sometimes focused upon diaryl iodonium salts of the general formula $(Ar)_2I^+X^-$ and the sulfonium salts of perfluorinated Lewis acids. In particular, hexafluoroantimonates and hexafluoroarsenates have found significant use as photoacid generators. However, metals or heavy elements such as phosphorus, arsenic, and antimony are problematic, as they may pollute the semiconductor materials during the lithography process.

Some prior compositions and methods have focused upon sulfonium or iodonium compounds that employ counter anions such as trifluoromethanesulfonate and toluenesulfonate. When irradiated, these compounds form their corresponding sulfonic acids. However, some sulfonic acids diffuse too rapidly through the resist film on the surface of the substrate, and the resolution of the resist pattern produced from these rapidly diffusing photoacid generators is rendered unacceptable. Silicon wafers prepared using such acid generating systems suffer from a significant line width increase over time, and from other surface problems upon heat treatment.

Larger counter anions, such as the toluenesulfonates, may have relatively lower diffusion rates. However, such counter anions

often have low solubility in resist solvents and thus do not provide a desirable resist pattern. It is therefore apparent that a photoacid generator in a photoresist system that does not allow the acid generated to undesirably migrate or diffuse through the polymer at
5 unacceptably high rates would be advantageous.

Some resins are unsuitable for use in this manner because the compounds absorb UV radiation which is directed upon them, causing the dissipation of the UV radiation before it reaches the lower side of the layer. Conventional novolac resins and
10 naphthoquinonediazide compounds are generally unsuitable for lithography that uses shorter wavelength sources (i.e. "deep UV") because such compounds exhibit intense absorption in the far ultraviolet region. That is, UV light impacting the surface of the resist is not capable of reaching and striking the lower or deeper regions of
15 the resist. As a result, the pattern of the novolac resin system which results when using far ultraviolet light with such compounds is sometimes undesirably tapered on the surface of the wafer, due to incomplete photoactivation throughout the wafer.

Thus, a resist system employing a photoacid that is capable of
20 providing for a high quality lithography etch having a fine resolution of less than about 0.5 μm on the wafer surface, facilitating the use of shorter wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation in the etching process, would be highly desirable. An etching system that provides a good etch, but does not show a high degree of undesirable
25 absorbance in the low UV portion of the spectrum, is attractive and desirable for producing a precise etch on a substrate.

Brief Description of the Drawings

A full and enabling disclosure of this invention, including the best mode shown to one of ordinary skill in the art, is set forth in this
30 specification. The following Figures illustrate the invention:

Figure 1 shows a typical prior art method of synthesizing an aryl iodonium compound;

Figure 2A is a zwitterionic compound in one embodiment of this invention which includes two aryl groups attached to a positively charged iodine atom, and a negatively charged group on one of the aryl atoms;

5 Figure 2B depicts another compound (i.e. embodiment) of this invention;

Figure 2C shows a compound of the invention substituted with a $-CF_3$ group;

10 Figure 3A shows a generic structure for an intermediate used to synthesize the zwitterionic compounds of this invention;

Figure 3B shows another chemical intermediate used to synthesize the zwitterionic compounds of this invention;

Figure 3C shows yet another chemical intermediate used to synthesize the zwitterionic compounds of this invention;

15 Figure 4A is one pathway for synthesizing compounds that are useful in the application of this invention;

Figure 4B shows an alternate pathway for synthesizing compounds of this invention;

Figure 5 shows a reaction used to combine two aryl groups;

20 Figure 6A is a graphical representation of Thermal Gravimetric Analyses (TGA) of a typical iodonium zwitterion;

Figure 6B is a graphical representation of TGA analysis of an iodonium zwitterion with DMSO of crystallization;

25 Figure 7 shows a synthesis pathway for iodobenzenesulfonimide; and

Figure 8 shows reactions used to produce several compounds of this invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

30 Reference now will be made to the embodiments of the invention, one or more examples of which are set forth below. Each example is provided by way of explanation of the invention, not as a limitation of the invention. In fact, it will be apparent to those skilled in

the art that various modifications and variations can be made in this invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention.

For instance, features illustrated or described as part of one embodiment can be used on another embodiment to yield a still

5 further embodiment. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover such modifications and variations as come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents. Other objects, features and aspects of the present invention are disclosed in or are obvious from the following detailed description. It is to be understood by one
10 of ordinary skill in the art that the present discussion is a description of exemplary embodiments only, and is not intended as limiting the broader aspects of the present invention, which broader aspects are embodied in the exemplary constructions.

A photoresist system usually is comprised of a polymer coating
15 applied on the substrate to be etched and a mixture of PAG and the photoresist formulation. The PAG then decomposes to generate an acid only in the areas irradiated. In general, an electronic device such as an integrated circuit is manufactured in a two step process. The first step is the coating of a silicon wafer with a thin film of
20 radiation sensitive polymer (resist). The second step is the transfer of the pattern to the substrate using an etching technique. Conventional techniques rely upon diazonaphthoquinone and novolac resins, which have been reported to work for generating circuits with features greater than about 0.8 μ m.

25 Figure 1 shows a prior art conventional iodonium salt employed as photoacid generator. Two aromatic groups are attached to an iodine atom. There is a positive charge on the iodine atom, and a negative charge on the separate X⁻ group. In solvent, the salt separates into ions as shown in the lower portion of Figure 1.

30 This invention, however, is directed to resist compositions that are capable of transmitting UV light of low or reduced wavelength. Iodonium salts generate a strong acid under short wavelength

irradiation. The strong acid is the conjugate acid of the counteranion. Larger counterions generate acids that diffuse to a lesser extent in the polymer matrix (known as the "resist"), producing better image resolution. Given the particular anion, the solubility of its diaryl

5 iodonium salts will depend on which aromatic rings are used.

In one aspect of this invention, a compound having the zwitterionic structure shown in Figure 2A is employed as a photoresist composition. This structure is a zwitterionic molecule, with both a positive and negative charge on the same species. There are two

10 aromatic rings connected to an iodine atom, with a positive charge on the iodine and a negative charge on one of the moieties attached to one of the aromatic groups (X^-). Further, R_1 and R_2 represent groups that may be attached to the aromatic rings at any remaining carbon position on the respective rings. R_1 and R_2 are each independently

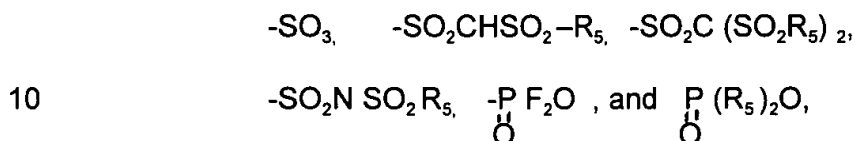
15 selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted: alkyls, aryls, halides, and fluorinated alkyls, nitrogen containing groups, halogenated alkyls, alkoxy, aryloxy, halogenated alkoxy, unsaturated alkyls, thioalkyls, unsaturated fluorinated alkyls, unsaturated alkoxy keto alkyls, alkoxys, aryloxy, keto aryls, sulfonyl

20 alkyl, sulfonyl aryls. Alternately, they may be represented by $-S-R_3$, wherein R_3 represents a substituted alkyl or substituted aryl group. The group represented by X^- may comprise essentially any negatively charged substituent. Furthermore, a substituted sulfonimide group could be employed in some applications, in association with an R_4

25 group. Furthermore, it is possible to include $CF_2CF_2OCF=CF_2$ or $CF_2CF_2OCF(CF_3)CF_2OCF=CF_2$. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 2B the R_5 group in that structure may be composed of any number of moities, including but not limited to a halogen atom (such as Fluorine), an alkyl group with one or more substituents, a cycloalkyl

30 group, which may have one or more substituents, or a aryl group which may or may not have one or more substituents.

In the invention, a zwitterionic compound having the structure shown in Figure 2A may be employed. In the compound, the X⁻ is selected from the group of compounds consisting of: sulphur-
 5 containing groups, nitrogen-containing groups and fluorine-containing groups. Furthermore, the compound as employed in Figure 2A also may include an X⁻ group, in some applications of the invention, in which the X⁻ comprises one or more of the following:



A preferred compound that may be employed in this invention is 4-I-C₆H₄-SO₂NHSO₂R (as in Figure 3B), which may be reacted to produce an iodonium salt, Ph-I(+)-C₆H₄-4-SO₂N(-)SO₂R₅. As shown
 15 in Figure 2B, the R₅ group may be comprised of any number of moities, including but not limited to: substituted or unsubstituted, hydroxyl alkyls, aryls, cycloalkyls, fluorinated alkyls, and fluorinated cycloalkyls. One preferred zwitterionic compound that may be employed in the practice of this invention is iodoaromatic sulfonimide,
 20 4-I-C₆H₄-SO₂NHSO₂CF₃, which may be prepared and converted into a zwitterionic iodonium salt, Ph-I(+)-C₆H₄-4-SO₂N(-)SO₂CF₃. In this specific embodiment of the invention, the fluorinated carbon atom is the R₅ group of Figure 2B, and this specific compound may be seen in Figure 2C.

25 The group that comprises the fluorinated carbon atom in Figure 2C may be comprised of other entities instead. This zwitterionic molecule surprisingly has been found to be capable of acting as a photacid generator. The use of this zwitterion provides a photoresist system that is significantly improved over previously
 30 known systems. The compositions of this invention are capable of successfully achieving the etch of features on the surface of the circuit with a line width of less than about 0.5μm lithography.

The choice of a synthetic route for iodonium compounds must consider whether the desired product is symmetrical (i.e. the two aromatic rings are the same) or not symmetrical. Further, it must be considered if the aromatic rings bear electron-withdrawing or
5 electron-donating substituents, and how best to introduce the desired counterion.

Synthesis of these compounds may involve preparing the simplest structure, i.e. a symmetrical salt with no substituents on the rings, such as diphenyl iodonium iodide. There are in principle at least
10 two approaches for such synthesis: (1) iodine is oxidized to a species that can react with two molecules of benzene, or (2) iodobenzene is oxidized to a trivalent iodine intermediate, which then binds to benzene.

First, and in the case of symmetrical diaryl iodonium
15 zwitterionic salt structures with two rings (i.e.: A_1 arene and A_2 arene, respectively) have a benzene or a substituted benzene. The nature of the substituents will determine the choice of reaction conditions, as will be recognized by a person of skill in the art. Figure 4A shows the reaction to produce a symmetrical diaryl iodonium salt.

20 In general, when iodine and two equivalents of an aromatic compound are used, electron-donating substituents do not tolerate strongly oxidizing media. Further, electron-withdrawing substituents may retard the reaction.

The second pathway employs an iodoarene to prepare
25 unsymmetrical diaryl iodonium salts (see Figure 4B). When an iodoarene is oxidized first, its oxidation is favored by electron-donating substituents. The further reaction with another arene generally follows the synthesis protocol of electrophilic reactions. Electron donating substituents favor the reaction and tend to be para-
30 directing. Electron withdrawing substituents react slowly and generally are meta-directing.

Representative data of systematic investigations are tabulated below, although this list is by no means the exclusive list of all possibilities that may be synthesized pursuant to this invention. This list represents merely examples to illustrate the numerous combinations possible in the synthesis of such compounds for use in this invention.

Symmetrical salts made using iodine are presented first, then symmetrical salts made from an iodoarene, and then finally unsymmetrical salts are presented last. Methods A, B, C, D are explained following Table 1. The first arene, A_1 , and the second arene, A_2 , are shown in column 1 and column 2, respectively, of Table 1.

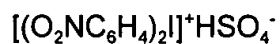
Table 1: Representative Preparations of Iodonium Salts.

1 st Arene (A ₁)	2 nd Arene (A ₂)	Method	Major isomer	Isolated as X ⁻ =	Yield %
Benzene	Benzene	A	-	Br	72
Fluorobenzene	Fluorobenzene	A	para	Br	65
Nitrobenzene	Nitrobenzene	A	meta	Br	42
Benzoic acid	Benzoic acid	A	meta	I	53
Toluene	Toluene	B	para	I	64
Anisole	Anisole	B	para	I	9
Toluene	Toluene	C	para	CF ₃ CO ₂	49
Anisole	Anisole	C	para	Br	58
Iodobenzene	Benzene	D	-	Br	74
2-Nitriodobenzene	Benzene	D	-	Br	10
3-Nitriodobenzene	Benzene	D	-	Br	98
4-Nitriodobenzene	Benzene	D	-	Br	41
2-Iodobenzoic acid	Benzene	D	-	I	39
3-Iodobenzoic acid	Benzene	D	-	I	55
4-Iodobenzoic acid	Benzene	D	-	I	69
4- Fluoriodobenzene	Benzene	D	-	Br	27
4-Iodoanisole	Benzene	D	-	CF ₃ CO ₂	92
3-Acetamidoiodobz.	Benzene	D	-	I	40
4-Acetamidoiodobz.	Benzene	D	-	I	20

Method A: Iodine + oxidizer + aromatic in sulfuric acid.

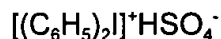
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Example: $I_2 + HNO_3/H_2SO_4 + PhNO_2 \rightarrow$



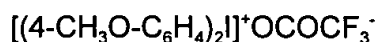
Method B: Iodate + aromatic in acetic anhydride/sulfuric acid.

Example: $\text{KIO}_3 + \text{benzene} + \text{Ac}_2\text{O}/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \rightarrow$



5 Method C: $\text{I}(\text{OCOCF}_3)_2 + \text{aromatic in acetic anhydride.}$

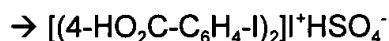
Example: anisole + $\text{I}(\text{OCOCF}_3)_2/\text{Ac}_2\text{O} \rightarrow$



Method D: $\text{Arl}=\text{O}$ or $\text{Arl}(\text{OCOCH}_3)_2$ or $(\text{Arl} + \text{oxidizer}) + \text{other}$

10 aromatic + acid.

Example: $4\text{-HO}_2\text{C-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-I} + \text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 + \text{benzene} \rightarrow$



Iodonium salts shown above are cation/anion pairs, where the
15 anion comes from the reaction system or is introduced after the
reaction by metathesis.

For example, the preparation of $\text{Ph-I}(+)\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-4-SO}_2\text{N}(-)\text{SO}_2\text{CF}_3$
(see Figure 5) follows the procedure developed for an unsymmetrical
iodonium salt as illustrated in Figure 4B, where the starting iodoarene
20 bears an electron-withdrawing substituent (see Table 1). The
reaction proceeds in the presence of perfulfate, benzene, and water.
A similar procedure of synthesis from an iodobenzenesulfonic acid
may also be used. Further, other groups may be attached to the
iodoarene in place of the $\text{SO}_2\text{N}(-)\text{SO}_2\text{CF}_3$, and the synthesis could
25 occur in the same manner. The group may be an $\text{SO}_2\text{-N-SO}_2\text{R}_4$
group in which R_4 is selected from an alkyl or fluorocarbon, as
examples.

The sulfonimide functional group has the surprisingly
unexpected property of allowing the reaction of Figure 5 to proceed
30 directly as shown in the Figure.

Procedures for the preparation of a sulfonimide-based
iodonium zwitterions are provided below. The compound

4-I-C₆H₄-SO₂NHSO₂CF₃ may be reacted with benzene, fluorobenzene, toluene, phenylacetic acid and benzotrifluoride.

Irradiation of 4-F-C₆H₄-I-C₆H₄-SO₂NHSO₂CF₃ dissolved in DMSO (dimethylsulfoxide) gave in 20 min substantial decomposition as observed by proton and fluorine Nuclear Magnetic Resonance. DMSO was used because it is the best solvent for the salt. However, it absorbs UV below 300 nm; solvents that let UV pass down to 200 nm also could be used (i.e. (CH₃CN, CF₃CH₂OH, (CF₃)₂CHOH)). TGA (Thermal Gravimetric Analysis) is a useful analytical technique, which is known by persons of skill in the art.

In Figures 6A and 6B one can see a TGA analysis for C₆H₅ - I - C₆H₄ - SO₂NSO₂CF₃, illustrating thermal stability of the Iodonium salt to nearly 300°C.

The synthesis of the starting material used in the iodonium salts of this invention proceed in high yield from relatively inexpensive starting materials. The reaction to make the starting iodobenzenesulfonimide can be prepared as shown in Figure 7. Pipsyl chloride is prepared using a method similar to that described in United States Patent No. 5,684,192. The fluorination of pipsyl chloride is carried out using a method similar to that described in United States Patent No. 3,560,568. The final step is the coupling reaction uses N-trimethylsilyl-trifluoromethanesulfonamide-Na salt which has been shown to readily undergo reactions with R₁SO₂F. Although the iodobenzenesulfonimides have shown encouraging and surprisingly unexpected results when used in iodonium salts, modifications of the pendent group also may be desirable as one aspect of this invention as a means of "tuning" or further adjusting the solubility of these compounds. Various iodobenzenesulfonimides also may be synthesized with varying R groups. Listed below are some representative reactions, along with the resulting products if any.

Table 2: Reactions to produce Iodobenzenesulfonimides

Sulfonyl Halide	Sulfonamide	Method	Product
IC ₆ H ₄ SO ₂ Cl	C ₆ H ₅ SO ₂ NH ₂	A	No rxn
IC ₆ H ₄ SO ₂ F	C ₆ H ₅ SO ₂ NH ₂	A	No rxn
CF ₂ BrCFBrOCF ₂ CF ₂ SO ₂ F	IC ₆ H ₄ SO ₂ N NaSiMe ₃	B	CF ₂ BrCFBrOCF ₂ CF ₂ SO ₂ NaSO ₂ C ₆ H ₄ I
IC ₆ H ₄ SO ₂ Cl	C ₆ H ₅ SO ₂ NH ₂	C	No rxn
IC ₆ H ₄ SO ₂ F	CH ₃ SO ₂ NH ₂	C	No rxn
IC ₆ H ₄ SO ₂ F	C ₆ H ₅ SO ₂ NH ₂	C	No rxn
ClC(O)OCH ₂ Ph	C ₆ H ₅ SO ₂ NH ₂	C	C ₆ H ₅ SO ₂ NH-Z

A: $\text{RSO}_2\text{NH}_2 + \text{LiOH} \rightarrow \text{RSO}_2\text{NHLi} + \text{R}'\text{SO}_2\text{X} \rightarrow \text{RSO}_2\text{NHSO}_2\text{R}'$

B: $\text{RSO}_2\text{NNaSiMe}_3 + \text{R}'\text{SO}_2\text{X} \rightarrow \text{RSO}_2\text{NNaSO}_2\text{R}'$

C: DIEA, CH₃CN + RSO₂NH₂

5

A further method of implementing the present invention is by way of a reaction pathway which serves to increase the reactivity of the sulfonyl halide as well as increase the solubility of the aromatic system, as further shown in Figure 8. In Figure 8, the

10 nitrobenzene sulfonyl chloride undergoes reaction with ArSO₂NHLi to produce the corresponding coupled product (i.e. the di-aryl product). Once the coupled product is formed, a deamination/halogenation reaction can be employed to produce the corresponding iodine compound. This reaction pathway facilitates the exploration of ortho,

15 meta, and para directed products by using different substituted starting materials. As will be recognized by a person of skill in the art, numerous possibilities are available in the practice of the invention, and the products shown in Figure 8 comprise just three of many possibilities of the zwitterionic compounds that may be produced in

20 the practice of this invention.

It is understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the present discussion is a description of exemplary embodiments only,

[illegible]